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THE 1950 POLISH SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

The first Polish Scientific Congress to be held at the end of 1950 will include all branches of science representing all Poland. The purpose of the congress is to study the present status of science in Poland and to prepare guiding principles for its future development.

According to Minister Stefan Jedrychowski, Polish science must aid in the industrialization of the country, the most vital problem of the Six-Year Plan for economic development. Science must: (a) explore the natural resources of the country; (b) solve the problem of substitutes, (c) promote economy in the consumption of scarce materials and increase their output, (d) expand and modernize the chemical industry, (e) develop new branches of the metal industry and increase the production of copper, aluminum, magnesium, and zinc, (f) increase labor productivity and modernize equipment, (g) develop farms, orcnards, and truck gardens, (h) improve forest and water management and deep-sea fisheries, (i) improve telecommunications, and (j) expand health improvement facilities.

It is especially significant for the petroleum industry that exploration of the country's mineral resources is one of the most important scientific problems of contemporary Poland. Of these, petroleum and natural gas, for which exploitation conditions are favorable in Poland, are the most important. The close association of science and industry has given favorable results. For example, the Physics Institute of the Mining and Metallurgical Academy and the Petroleum Institute were responsible for the construction of apparatus to explore the radioactivity of rocks in retroleum bore holes. One of the more important tasks of the congress will be to promote further cooperation between science and industry.

The congress is divided into the following sections: Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, Mathematics and Physics, Power and Electrotechnology, Machine Building and Mechanical Technology, Engineering and Construction, Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Natural Science, Biology and Agriculture, Medical Science, and Organization of Science and Higher Education.

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The Natural Science section, the most important for Poland, is divided into six subsections: geology, minerology, mining, geophysics, geodesy and land surveying, and geography. It was clearly outlined at the preparatory meetings of the sections and subsections that the various phases of petroleum and natural gas problems should be discussed at the meetings of these subsections.

A conference on natural science was held at the Mining and Metallurgical Academy in Krakow to establish the guiding principles for the activities of the congress.

Jan Dembowski, an eminent professor, is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Congress.

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